

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, 14th December 1923.

The House met at 11 o'clock, the hon. the Deputy President (Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI) in the Chair.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions and answers shall be arranged in order of subjects.

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

ELECTIONS.

Ganjām bye-election.

39 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have taken legal opinion on the question of the effect of the death of a candidate after the date on which polling began but before the date when it was completed, and on the question as to the power of the Government to fix different dates for polling; and

(b) the grounds on which the Government have decided to order a bye-election in Ganjām for only one of the seats, instead of a fresh election for all the three seats?

A.—(a) No.

(b) His Excellency the Governor has decided that, on a true interpretation of the rules, a bye-election should be ordered in the Non-Muhammadan Rural constituency of Ganjām only for the single seat in which a vacancy occurred by the death of Mr. P. Venkateswarulu Pantulu and under Rule 48 of the Madras Electoral Rules his decision is final.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, may I ask the hon. the Law Member to say whether, before His Excellency the Governor gave a decision on the question, he was consulted by him, or whether he gave him any advice in the matter as the Law Member of the Government?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Though it is not usual to ask questions relating to what may be called the internal machinery of the Government, the answer in this case is 'yes'."